

The Dobbs House
Near Bellmawr, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Dobbs House
Near Bellmawr, Camden County, New Jersey

Owner: Civic Building & Loan Association, Camden

Date of Erection: Original brick section 1722-1759;
later brick portion 1759-1795;
stone unit after 1853

Architect:

Builder: Members of the Hugg family for brick units;
William Crispin probable builder of stone
part

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: Original brick units two;
Stone section two and a half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick and
stone, partially stuccoed

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - Pitch, shingles, stone
section has dormers

Historical Data:

According to Prowell John Hugg, Jr. purchased, between the years 1696-1710, several tracts of land between the Great and Little Timber Creeks extending near the head of the former and across to the latter. Thus the tract lies near the head of Great Timber Creek, South Branch.

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In 1722 John Hugg, Jr. willed to his son, Jacob, the tract of land now known as Dobbs Farm, and Jacob in turn willed the house and farm to Brasilla in 1759. There is no way to show just when the house was built and whether John or Jacob Hugg was the builder; but at least it was standing in 1759 when willed to Brasilla. The property remained in the Hugg family until Isaac sold it in 1838. It is reasonable to conclude that Brasilla erected the second brick portion of the house during his occupancy from 1759-1795.

After Isaac Hugg sold in 1837, there were several changes in ownership until it came into the possession of William Crispin in 1853; Crispin obtained it from Joseph and Jane Ross, adding nine other joining tracts of land.

It seems that this William Crispin erected the large stone house adjoining the original brick units. It remained in Crispin's ownership until 1868 when it was sold by his executor, Chalkley Glover. It had a succession of owners until it came into the possession of the Dobbs family in 1880. They held it until 1928 as part of the three hundred and sixty acres acquired by Crispin. A member of the Dobbs family sold in 1906 to Edward D. Kelly and from that time on it has had various owners. At present it is in the hands of the Civic Building & Loan Association of Camden.

Bibliography:

Prowell, G. R. History of Camden County, New Jersey Philadelphia, Richards and Company, 1886

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